

Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment



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Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

MEMORANDUM

TO: Robert Krieger, Manager
Emissions Evaluation Section
Air Resources Board
1001 I Street, 6th Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

FROM: Daryn Dodge, Ph.D., Acting Chief,
Air Toxicology and Risk Assessment Section 

DATE: February 5, 2014

SUBJECT: RESCINDING THE USE OF 2,3,7,8-TETRACHLORODIBENZO-*p*-DIOXIN
AS A SURROGATE FOR ASSESSING THE NONCANCER HAZARD OF
UNSPECIATED PCBs IN THE HOT SPOTS PROGRAM

In a memorandum from me to you, dated October 23, 2013, concerning updates and clarifications to the online reference exposure levels (RELs) and cancer potency tables, one of the updates was the statement: "**Polychlorinated Biphenyls** – added 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-*p*-dioxin oral and inhalation RELs for use as a surrogate for unspeciated PCB mixtures, as recommended in Appendix E of the 2003 Air Toxics Hot Spots Program Guidance Manual for Preparation of Health Risk Assessments."

Upon further review of the 2003 Guidance Manual, we found the language in Appendix E too vague on the issue of using 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-*p*-dioxin as a surrogate for a REL of unspeciated PCB mixtures, and see the need for additional work on the methods for evaluating noncancer assessment of unspeciated PCB mixtures. Therefore, I am rescinding this portion of the October 23, 2013 memorandum regarding unspeciated PCBs.

As there is currently no approved method that can be used to assess the noncancer hazard of an unspeciated PCB mixture, persons preparing Health Risk Assessments for

California Environmental Protection Agency

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption.

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the Hot Spots Program should consult with OEHHA and the local Air Pollution Control or Air Quality Management District if an assessment of the noncancer hazard for unspeciated PCB mixtures is needed.

Please contact me at, 916-445-9375 or daryn.dodge@oehha.ca.gov, if you have any questions.

Cc: David Siegel, Ph.D., Chief
Air, Community, and Environmental Research Branch

Melanie Marty, Ph.D., Assistant Deputy Director
Scientific Affairs Division